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Shawnee State University

September 9, 2005

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Applications for Consent to Transfer Control of Filed by Verizon Communications, Inc. and
MCI, Inc., WC Docket No. 05-75

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As I learn about the deliberations regarding the efforts of Verizon to acquire MCI, I am prompted to write those involved in those deliberations about the role Verizon plays in the communities in my region. One of the many opportunities an organization has to communicate about its values and commitment to its customers and service region is through its level of community involvement. Verizon is involved in this community. Senior staff members are involved in regional economic development activities, regular employees are active in their churches, schools, and communities, and the corporation is funding many needs of our community.

Shawnee State University has been privileged to receive funding from Verizon to support our development of a state-of-the-art university Children's Learning Center with connectivity that supports instruction of teacher education students. Additionally, Verizon's Foundation has funded our program to mentor under-prepared parents seeking to develop good reading and learning skills in their children. I am aware of the company's support for literacy initiatives that serve the entire southern Ohio region. The funds they provide are making an important difference in a region in need of leadership to address a high literacy rate and a low education participation rate. If corporate character counts, there is evidence of that character in our part of the world.

I appreciate the opportunity to tell you why Verizon is important to my community. I hope this information will assist you in your decision-making.

Sincerely,



Rita Rice Morris
President

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